

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) An image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

a E-mail transmitting ~~means for sending~~ unit, adapted to send E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a requesting ~~means for requesting~~ unit, adapted to selectively request reply E-mail responsive to E-mail to be sent when the E-mail data is sent by said E-mail transmitting ~~[[means]]~~ unit;

a communication managing ~~means for managing~~ unit, adapted to manage transmission information of each of ~~said~~ sent E-mail data; and

a control ~~means for updating~~ unit, adapted to update, in a manner capable of identifying whether or nor a reply E-mail responsive to the sent E-mail which requests the reply E-mail is received, the transmission information which is managed by said communication managing ~~[[means]]~~ unit on the basis of an identification result as to whether or not said requesting unit requests the reply E-mail responsive to the sent E-mail and a reception result of the reply E-mail responsive to [[said]] the sent E-mail.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said requesting ~~[[means]]~~ unit requests reply E-mail indicative of a message disposition notification of the E-mail to be sent.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a selecting ~~means for selecting~~ unit, adapted to select ON/OFF of an execution of said requesting ~~[[means]]~~ unit,

and wherein said communication managing ~~[[means]]~~ unit manages ON/OFF of the request of ~~[[said]]~~ the reply E-mail as transmission information every sent E-mail.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control ~~[[means]]~~ unit updates the transmission information which is managed by said communication managing ~~[[means]]~~ unit to first information showing that the reply E-mail responsive to ~~[[said]]~~ the sent E-mail has been received.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control ~~[[means]]~~ unit updates the transmission information which is managed by said communication managing ~~[[means]]~~ unit to second information showing that the reply E-mail responsive to ~~[[said]]~~ the sent E-mail ~~[[is]]~~ was not received within a predetermined period of time.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an output means for visually outputting unit, adapted to visually output the transmission information which is managed by said communication managing ~~[[means]]~~ unit.

7. (Currently Amended) An image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail receiving means for receiving unit, adapted to receive E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a detecting means for detecting unit, adapted to detect control information which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail data received by said E-mail receiving ~~[[means]]~~ unit; and

a notifying means for notifying the detection of said control ~~information by visualizing means or monitoring means~~ unit, adapted to notify information which represents that the control information is detected by said detecting unit.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said notifying ~~[[means]]~~ unit performs the notification before contents of the E-mail whose control information was detected are visually outputted.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising an output means for visually outputting unit, adapted to visually output contents of the image file attached to the received E-mail,

and wherein when the image file attached to the E-mail whose control information was detected is visually outputted, said notifying [[means]] unit adds information indicative of the detection of [[said]] the control information to a part of [[said]] the image.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein when the image file attached to the E-mail whose control information was detected is visually outputted, if the reply E-mail responsive to [[said]] the control information has already been sent, said notifying [[means]] unit adds information indicative of a completion of a response to [[said]] the control information to a part of [[said]] the image.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein [[said]] the control information is information for requesting reply E-mail indicative of a message disposition notification of the E-mail.

12. (Currently Amended) An image communicating method in an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail transmitting step₁ of sending E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a requesting step, of selectively requesting reply E-mail responsive to E-mail to be sent when the E-mail data is sent [[by]] in said E-mail transmitting step;

a communication managing step, of managing transmission information of each of [[said]] the sent E-mail data; and

a control step, of updating, in a manner capable of identifying whether or nor a reply E-mail responsive to the sent E-mail which requests the reply E-mail is received, the transmission information which is managed [[by]] in said communication managing step on the basis of an identification result as to whether or not said requesting step requests the reply E-mail responsive to the sent E-mail and a reception result of the reply E-mail responsive to [[said]] the sent E-mail.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein in said requesting step, reply E-mail indicative of a message disposition notification of the E-mail to be sent is requested.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, further comprising a selecting step of selecting ON/OFF of an execution of said requesting step, and wherein in said communication managing step, ON/OFF of the request of [[said]] the reply E-mail is managed as transmission information every sent E-mail.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein in said control step, the transmission information which is managed [[by]] in said

communication managing step is updated to first information showing that the reply E-mail responsive to [[said]] the sent E-mail has been received.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein in said control step, the transmission information which is managed [[by]] in said communication managing step is updated to second information showing that the reply E-mail responsive to [[said]] the sent E-mail [[is]] was not received within a predetermined period of time.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, further comprising an outputting step, of visually outputting the transmission information which is managed [[by]] in said communication managing step.

18. (Currently Amended) An image communicating method in an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail receiving step, of receiving E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a detecting step, of detecting control information which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail data received [[by]] in said E-mail receiving step; and

a notifying step, of notifying ~~the detection of said control~~
information by visualizing means or monitoring means information which represents that the control information is detected in said detecting step.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 18, wherein in said notifying step, the notification is performed before contents of the E-mail whose control information was detected are visually outputted.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 18, further comprising an output step, of visually outputting contents of the image file attached to the received E-mail,

and wherein in said notifying step, when the image file attached to the E-mail whose control information was detected is visually outputted, information indicative of the detection of [[said]] the control information is added to a part of [[said]] the image.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 20, wherein in said notifying step, when the image file attached to the E-mail whose control information was detected is visually outputted, if the reply E-mail responsive to [[said]] the control information has already been sent, information indicative of a completion of a response to [[said]] the control information is added to a part of [[said]] the image.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein [[said]] the control information is information for requesting reply E-mail indicative of a message disposition notification of the E-mail.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer program which is executed by a computer of an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail transmitting step₁ of sending E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a requesting step₂ of selectively requesting reply E-mail responsive to E-mail to be sent when the E-mail data is sent [[by]] in said E-mail transmitting step;

a communication managing step₃ of managing transmission information of each of [[said]] the sent E-mail data; and

a control step₄ of updating, in a manner capable of identifying whether or nor a reply E-mail responsive to the sent E-mail which requests the reply E-mail is received, the transmission information which is managed [[by]] in said communication managing step on the basis of an identification result as to whether or not said requesting step requests the reply E-mail responsive to the sent E-mail and a reception result of the reply E-mail responsive to [[said]] the sent E-mail.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer program which is executed by a computer of an image communicating apparatus which is connected to a network capable of performing E-mail communication and has an E-mail communicating function, comprising:

an E-mail receiving step₁ of receiving E-mail data accompanied by an image file;

a detecting step₂ of detecting control information which requests reply E-mail from the E-mail data received ~~[[by]]~~ in said E-mail receiving step; and

a notifying step₂ of notifying ~~the detection of said control~~
~~information by visualizing means or monitoring means~~ information which represents that
the control information is detected in said detecting step.

25. (Original) A computer-readable memory medium which stores a computer program according to claim 23.

26. (Original) A computer-readable memory medium which stores a computer program according to claim 24.

27. (Currently Amended) An image communicating apparatus for sending and receiving image information through a ~~public line~~ communication network, comprising:

an E-mail means for sending and receiving unit, adapted to send and receive E-mail via an E-mail server enclosed in ~~[[a]]~~ the communication network;

a memory means for storing unit, adapted to store communication management information of ~~[[said]]~~ the E-mail;

a communication management information forming means for unit, adapted to, each time ~~[[said]]~~ the E-mail is sent by said E-mail ~~[[means]]~~ unit, forming form communication management information of ~~[[said]]~~ the sent E-mail and storing store ~~[[it]]~~ the communication management information into said memory ~~[[means]]~~ unit;

~~an updating means for unit adapted to~~, when a delivery status notification for ~~said the~~ sent E-mail from said E-mail server is received by said E-mail ~~[[means]] unit, updating update~~ contents of the communication management information of ~~[[said]] the~~ E-mail which received ~~[[said]] the~~ delivery status notification in accordance with ~~[[said]] the~~ received delivery status notification; and

~~a communication management report output means for outputting unit, adapted to output~~ a communication management report indicative of the communication management information stored in said memory ~~[[means]] unit~~.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein ~~[[said]] the~~ communication management information includes a transmission result of ~~[[said]] the~~ sent E-mail, and said updating ~~[[means]] unit~~ updates the transmission result of the communication management information of the E-mail which received ~~[[said]] the~~ delivery status notification in accordance with ~~[[said]] the~~ received delivery status notification.

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein ~~[[said]] the~~ delivery status notification for ~~[[said]] the~~ sent E-mail from said E-mail server is a notification showing one of a "~~failed~~" failed notification, "~~delayed~~" a delayed notification, "~~normal end of transmission~~" a normal end of transmission notification, and "~~relayed~~" a relayed notification as a transmission result of ~~[[said]] the~~ sent E-mail.

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 28, further comprising a discriminating ~~means for discriminating~~ unit, adapted to discriminate whether the delivery status notification for ~~[[said]] the~~ sent E-mail from said E-mail server has been received by said E-mail ~~[[means]]~~ unit after the elapse of a predetermined period of time from the transmission of ~~[[said]] the~~ E-mail or not,

and wherein if it is determined by said discriminating ~~[[means]]~~ unit that the delivery status notification for ~~[[said]] the~~ sent E-mail from said E-mail server has been received, said updating ~~[[means]]~~ unit updates the transmission result of the communication management information of the E-mail which received the delivery status notification in accordance with ~~[[said]] the~~ received delivery status notification, and

said communication management report output ~~[[means]]~~ unit outputs a communication management report in which ~~[[said]] the~~ transmission result was updated as a communication management report of ~~[[said]] the~~ sent E-mail.

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 29, wherein if it is determined by said discriminating ~~[[means]]~~ unit that the delivery status notification for ~~[[said]] the~~ sent E-mail from said E-mail server is not received, said communication management report output ~~[[means]]~~ unit outputs a communication management report in which the transmission result of ~~[[said]] the~~ sent E-mail has successfully been finished.

32. (Currently Amended) An image communicating apparatus for sending and receiving image information through a ~~public line~~ communication network, comprising:

an E-mail means for sending and receiving unit, adapted to send and receive E-mail via an E-mail server enclosed in [[a]] said communication network;

an analyzing means for unit, adapted to, when a delivery status notification returned from said E-mail server in response to the E-mail transmitted by said E-mail [[means]] unit is received, ~~analyzing~~ analyze contents of [[said]] the received delivery status notification; and

an error notification information output means for unit, adapted to, when it is detected by the analysis of said analyzing [[means]] unit that [[said]] the received delivery status notification is a transmission error notification of [[said]] the sent E-mail, [[outputting]] output error notification information indicative of a transmission error of [[said]] the sent E-mail.

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said error notification information output [[means]] unit further comprises ~~means for generating a unit adapted to generate~~ a warning sound as [[said]] the error notification information.

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said error notification information output [[means]] unit further comprises ~~means for printing and outputting said a unit adapted to print and output the~~ error notification information.

35. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said error notification information output ~~[[means]]~~ unit further comprises ~~means for displaying said~~ a unit adapted to display the error notification information.

36. and 37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A communication result managing method which is used in an image communicating apparatus which can perform a transmission and a reception of E-mail through an E-mail server enclosed in a communication network, comprising the steps of:

~~forming~~, each time the E-mail is sent, ~~forming~~ communication management information of ~~[[said]]~~ the sent E-mail and storing ~~[[it]]~~ the communication management information into memory means;

~~updating~~, when a delivery status notification for ~~[[said]]~~ the sent E-mail from said E-mail server is received, ~~updating~~ contents of the communication management information of ~~said~~ the E-mail which received ~~[[said]]~~ the delivery status notification in accordance with ~~[[said]]~~ the received delivery status notification; and

outputting a communication management report indicative of the communication management information stored in said memory means.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) A computer program for a communication result management which is used when ~~it is~~ executed by a computer of an image communicating apparatus which can perform a transmission and a reception of E-mail through an E-mail server enclosed in a communication network, comprising the steps of:

forming, each time the E-mail is sent, ~~forming~~ communication management information of ~~said~~ the sent E-mail and storing ~~[[it]]~~ the communication management information into memory means;

updating, when a delivery status notification for ~~[[said]]~~ the sent E-mail from ~~[[said]]~~ the E-mail server is received, ~~updating~~ contents of the communication management information of ~~[[said]]~~ the E-mail which received ~~[[said]]~~ the delivery status notification in accordance with ~~[[said]]~~ the received delivery status notification; and

outputting a communication management report indicative of the communication management information stored in said memory means.

41. and 42. (Canceled)

43. (Original) A computer-readable memory medium which stores a computer program according to claim 40.